

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL SHAWN HENSEL, US ARMY, OF LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of U.S. Army Corporal Shawn Hensel, of Logansport, Indiana, who died on August 14, 2007 from wounds sustained during an enemy attack in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Washington. Just twenty years old, Shawn lived a life worthy of admiration and respect.

Shortly after learning about his death, Shawn's father David spoke of the love for Shawn among his family, "Shawn had two sisters that really loved him." Observing the crowd of people at a memorial service for Shawn one week later, Shawn's sister Autumn noted "It's nice to know that he was loved this much." Shawn was indeed deeply loved by his family and by his community.

Married just eight months ago, Shawn was also loved by his wife, Laci. Laci noted of Shawn, "The love he had for his country was unbelievable." This observation was reinforced by Jeff Strite, the preacher at the Church of Christ, "He was privileged to wear his uniform, and he wore it wherever he could." This love of country, this pride in service, played on another quality of Shawn's. His friend Chuck Porter remarked "Shawn just had a way of getting into your heart." Shawn's life and service now leaves him in all our hearts.

The button Shawn's mother Beth recently has been wearing reads "Our Hero, 1987–2007." Our hero. This is most certainly what Shawn is now. We are used to speaking of twenty-year-olds, of those recently married, of having lives full of promise and possibility. But Shawn also had a great love of country. And this young man is honored for his sacrifice, for putting that promise and possibility on the line in service to his country.

"I talk to Shawn all the time and ask him to give me strength," Beth said recently. And Shawn would want us all to be strong. Today I honor Corporal Shawn Hensel's strength, patriotism, and sacrifice. As I register a Nation's gratitude, it is my regretful duty to also note our grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. We join with his wife Laci, his father David, and his mother Beth to mourn his loss. Shawn's spirit will always be with us. May God Bless Shawn and all those he loved.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANNETTE GRIFFIN UPON BEING NAMED 2007 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ROTARY CLUB

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Annette Griffin, superintendent for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, as recipient of the 2007 Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club. Her foresight and dedication to the students, the teachers, the parents, the administrative staff and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch community is unparalleled and worthy of recognition.

Dr. Griffin earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Master's Degree in Reading from Louisiana State University. In 1985, she received her Doctor of Education Degree in Administrative Leadership at the University of North Texas. Never known to rest on her laurels, she continually stays abreast of current activities in her field through post-doctoral classes at Harvard University and Columbia University.

Dr. Griffin began her career as a teacher in the Special Education Department of the Richardson ISD and after four years was promoted to principal within the Richardson ISD. In 1986, Annette joined the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD advancing to become an assistant superintendent until 1990. Dr. Griffin's career then led her to serve consecutively as superintendent of the Carroll ISD and then in the Duncanville ISD. But as fate would have it, in 1997, Annette was offered the superintendent position of CFB ISD where she remains a steadfast champion for education today.

Annette is an active member in community organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Irving Baylor Hospital Board, Texans CAN! Academy and the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce. Many accolades have been bestowed upon Dr. Griffin, most notably the Paul Harris Fellowship, the Texans CAN! Academy Mother of the Year, the University of North Texas alumni of the Year, the Texas Superintendent of the Year and the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. She especially enjoys volunteering at the Rotary International Four Way Test Speech Contest where she can hear what local high school students have to say about important issues.

Annette and her husband, Allen, have been married for thirty-five years and have a daughter, Alana, and a son, Tim.

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and the community are very fortunate to have Dr. Griffin leading our young people to a brighter future. She is a strong advocate for excellence in education and has continually enhanced the lives of many through her sense of commitment and progressive vision. It is truly an

honor to represent Dr. Annette Griffin in the 24th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING PHIL DIEBEL ON RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Phil Diebel upon his retirement after over 27 years with the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

In 1981, Mr. Diebel joined the UNT family as controller, and soon became vice president for finance and business affairs, his role for over 20 years. By 2001, he held the position of vice chancellor for finance for the UNT System. His long and distinguished career meant that he worked for North Texas State University, before its official name changed to the University of North Texas.

During his tenure Mr. Diebel worked with two chancellors as well as three presidents of UNT. He watched the UNT system grow from what was largely known as a commuter school to a thriving public university system; one of only six in Texas. Under his tenure, the student size dramatically increased, the university purchased and constructed seven new residence halls, the UNT Dallas Campus opened, involvement in the present effort to secure a UNT law school in Dallas took place, and the UNT health science campus in Fort Worth became a significant asset in the university system.

His decades at UNT were not simply a matter of Mr. Diebel's official positions. He served and gave leadership in many UNT efforts over the years, including serving as chair of the responsibility center management (RCM), tuition review, and capital projects planning committees. He was executive sponsor of the Enterprise-wide Information System (EIS), and served on the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, SACS, reaffirmation team and as a chair for committee with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

But Mr. Diebel's giving nature was not only directed at UNT. An active member of the north Texas community, he served on the Denton advisory board for the Salvation Army; governing board of the North Texas Public Broadcasting, KERA; advisory board of the Denton Regional Medical Center; governing board of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation; governing board of the United Way of Denton County; Board of Trustees of the Selwyn School; redistricting committee of the Denton Independent School District; and Denton County Housing Finance Corporation.

So with great respect I extend sincere congratulations to Mr. Phil Diebel on his much-deserved retirement. He is a true friend of UNT and the Denton community and I have been honored to know him as a friend and wish he and Polly much satisfaction in retirement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING CALEB D. HENDERSON FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb D. Henderson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Caleb has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Caleb is also an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the World Conservation Award in February 2007.

For his Eagle Scout project, Caleb designed and trained Scouts in concrete work and supervised the construction of a dumpster pad facility for North Oak Christian Church in Kansas City. Caleb has also attended the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and three camps and two Klondike Derbys.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caleb D. Henderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272,
AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2272, the 21st Century Competitiveness Act.

I want to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together on this important legislation that responds to the global economic challenges our country faces. This bill ensures that American students, teachers, businesses, and workers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology well into the future.

In order for the United States to remain competitive in the global economy, we must invest in education. This bill will allow more students to be trained in math, science, engineering, and technology education through quality, innovative teacher-training programs. As a result, our future generation will be able to transform ideas into new technologies that will boost our economy and create good jobs here at home.

Sadly over the last decade, U.S. Federal funding for research and development has declined steadily. H.R. 2272 makes a renewed commitment to independent scientific research by increasing funding for the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. This

bill provides grants for outstanding researchers and coordinates research ideas and infrastructure needs between universities, national labs, and Government agencies.

In addition, creating a new energy policy is a top priority for the new Democratic majority. Clean energy technologies will create high-paying American jobs, strengthen our national security, lower costs for consumers, and reduce global warming. The 21st Century Competitiveness Act strengthens our national commitment to energy research and innovation by creating a new Advanced Research Agency for Energy, ARPA-E.

Finally, H.R. 2272 increases support for innovative entrepreneurs. Small businesses are often the catalyst for new innovations; however these businesses face significant obstacles that limit their efforts to transform ideas into reality. This bill increases funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, and also creates the Technology Innovation Program, TIP, that supports small businesses that are developing technologies that will benefit our country and world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical legislation that ensures the United States' global competitiveness.

HONORING NORTH LAKE COLLEGE
FOR 30 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor North Lake College in celebration of its 30th anniversary of educational excellence.

North Lake College's main campus is set on 276 acres in Irving-Las Colinas business center. The college has expanded its facilities to provide diverse services and programs for its students. From the construction of an expanded Science and Medical Professions Building, a Workforce Development Center, and a General Purpose Building on the main campus to satellite campuses in downtown Irving, the South Irving Center and the Dallas-Fort Worth Education Center, North Lake is continually meeting the needs of its students and community.

Since opening its doors in the Fall of 1977, North Lake has increased its enrollment from 2,823 students to 9,415 credit students in the Fall of 2006. It is an accredited public community college with an open door admission policy. As part of the Dallas County Community College District, North Lake is committed to "Closing the Gaps" a Texas state initiative to continually increase enrollment goals for all population groups. Today, North Lake College serves approximately 23,000 credit students and 12,000 continuing education students.

North Lake College's expert planning and partnerships has contributed to its success in offering students a variety of occupational and degree programs preparing them for employment in the workforce or transferring to any Texas public university or college. North Lake offers degrees in Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Sciences in more than 24 areas of study. In addition to the degree programs, students can earn certifications in more than 60 career fields.

North Lake College's 30th anniversary is worthy of recognition. Its beautiful campuses, its diverse and growing enrollment, and its wide array of educational degree and certification programs are all a testament of educational excellence. I am honored to represent such a respected collegiate institution in the 24th District of Texas.

AARON ADDISON TAYLOR FOR
THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Addison Taylor, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Aaron has been involved in scouting, he has earned 25 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Quartermaster and Senior Patrol Leader. Aaron is also an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and entered the Tribe of Mic-O-Say as Brave Unyielding Rock in 2006 and elevated to Hardway Warrior in 2007.

For his Eagle Scout project, Aaron designed and procured materials for and supervised the construction of "no-stoop" garden planter boxes for residents of the Kansas City Garden Village assisted living community. Aaron has also attended the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and 3-year attendance at District Camporee and Klondike Derbies.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Addison Taylor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING COLT KNOST
FOR U.S. AMATEUR VICTORY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pilot Point native Colt Knost on his victory at the 107th U.S. Amateur Championship. Knost defeated Michael Thompson, 2 and 1, in the 36-hole final match.

The Amateur is one of 13 national championships conducted annually by the United States Golf Association, 10 of which are strictly for amateurs. The USGA is the national governing body of golf in this country and Mexico, a combined territory that includes more than half the game's golfers and golf courses.

Colt Knost, 22, played at Southern Methodist University. With this victory, Knost became the sixth golfer in history to win two USGA championships in the same season, and the second to win the Amateur and the Amateur Public Links in the same year. Knost